

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION CALIFORNIA DIVISION 980 Ninth Street, Suite 400 Sacramento, CA. 95814-2724

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Mr. Jeff Morales, Director California Department of Transportation 1120 N Street Sacramento, California 95814

Attention:

Federal Resources Office, Room 3500

For Kris Balaji, Chief, Office of Federal Transportation Programming

Dear Mr. Morales:

SUBJECT: TCAG 2002 FTIP Amendment Numbers 3 and 4

We have completed our review of the Tulare County Association of Governments' (TCAG) Amendment Numbers 3 and 4 to its 2002/2003 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) submitted by your letter dated February 25, 2003. These amendments were adopted by TCAG on January 27, 2003.

We accept these TCAG amendments in accordance with 23 CFR 450 and find that the amendments were developed on a continuing, cooperative, comprehensive transportation planning process in accordance with 23 USC 134 and Section 5305 of the Federal Transit Act (49 USC 53). The changes made to the program by these amendments are exempt from the requirement that a conformity determination be performed. Therefore, we find this FTIP to conform to the applicable State Implementation Plan.

Many of the projects included with this amendment are shown as 'change program year.' This description is accurate when moving funding within years of the current FTIP. We remind the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and TCAG that projects moved from years prior to the current FTIP cycle are new projects. Project descriptions should appropriately reflect new projects.

This finding has been coordinated with the regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This letter constitutes approval and inclusion of TCAG's FTIP Amendment Numbers 3 and 4 into California's 2002/2003 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

Sincerely,

eslie T. Rogers

Regional Administrator

Federal Transit Administration

For

Gary N. Hamby

Division Administrator

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Federal Highway Administration